

**WE THINK MORE OF CHILDREN, WOMEN AND
MEN THAN OF BEEF, PORK AND MUTTON**

THE DAY BOOK

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STATE FACTORY INSPECTOR SAYS FIRE LAWS ARE JOKE AND CANNOT BE ENFORCED

*Admits Other Such Tragedies as Burning to Death of
Anna Imroth May Be Looked For—His Depart-
ment Tied Hand and Foot by Lack of Men.*

The laws passed by the people of Illinois for the protection from fire of those who work in factories and the like are jokes.

The laws are perfectly good laws, but as things are just now they are not and cannot be enforced.

The Day Book's authority for these statements is Barney Cohen, first deputy state factory inspector, charged with the enforcement of these laws.

Ever since Anna Imroth was burned to death in the Riordan factory fire The Day Book has been making an earnest effort to find out how that factory was allowed to disregard the fire laws.

For there is a state law which says that factory doors shall open outward, so that in case of fire employes shall have a better chance of escape. The act calls

on the state factory inspector to enforce the law.

And it was trapped behind an inward-opening door that Anna Imroth went to her death in the Riordan fire.

On the demand of The Day Book a representative of the state factory inspector's office was called upon to attend the Imroth inquest.

The department chose to send, not an inspector, but Charles J. Herman, its attorney. In reply to a question from Deputy Coroner Sam Davis, Herman said:

"You understand, Mr. Coroner, that our department is not interested in this case."

This curious indifference of the department to its duty aroused Davis and he compelled Herman to read the state law, making it the duty of the state factory inspector to see that factory doors open outward.